

CONFIDENTIAL

/36/

IMMEDIATE

FRP. .2. . . .6. .8

STATE

25X1

85 6725800

SCD

PAGE 001

NC 6725800

TOR: 141602Z MAR 85

DD RUEAIB
ZNY CCCCC ZDC STATE ZZH
STU1734
DD RUEHC
DE RUEHMO #3170/01 0731506
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 141504Z MAR 85
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8202
INFO RUHFT/AMCONSUL FRANKFURT 7438
RUHFLG/AMCONSUL Leningrad 1525
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 03170

DEPT. FOR A/SY/OPS/FO/MSG AND EUR/DOV
FRANKFURT FOR ADS
Leningrad FOR PO AND RSO

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: ASEC, UR, US
SUBJECT: ASSAULT ON MARINE CORPORAL JON HILDRETH -- THE
OFFICIAL SOVIET VERSION

REF: (A) MOSCOW 02899. (B) STATE 077413

1. SUMMARY: COLONEL NIKOLAI FOMENKO, CHIEF OF DIPLO-
MATIC MILITIA, REQUESTED AN URGENT MEETING WITH THE RSO
ON MARCH 7, 1985. AFTER SETTING THE PROPER STAGE BY
RELATING A NUMBER OF PREVIOUS INCIDENTS ALLEGEDLY
INVOLVING CORPORAL HILDRETH, FOMENKO AND HIS TWO AIDES
PROCEEDED TO DESCRIBE HILDRETH'S ACTIVITIES AT THE
INTOURIST HOTEL ON THE MORNING OF MARCH 6, 1985, SPECIFI-
CALLY ACCUSING HIM OF PHYSICALLY ASSAULTING AN ELDERLY
MALE EMPLOYEE OF THE HOTEL. WHEN QUESTIONED A SECOND
TIME BY THE RSO ON MARCH 8, HILDRETH STATED THAT AT
NO TIME DID HE ASSAULT AN EMPLOYEE OF THE INTOURIST
HOTEL AND ONCE AGAIN AFFIRMED THE ACCURACY OF HIS
ORIGINAL ACCOUNT OF HIS ACTIVITIES ON THE DATE IN
QUESTION (REF A). EMBASSY CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT
HILDRETH WAS THE SUBJECT OF A PREMEDITATED ASSAULT AND
THAT THE SOVIET COUNTER-CHARGE IS COMPLETELY SPURIOUS.
END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY SECURITY OFFICERS MET WITH COLONEL NIKOLAI
FOMENKO AND HIS AIDES AT HIS REQUEST AT 1730 HOURS,
MARCH 7, 1985. AFTER A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF SEVERAL
ON-GOING ROUTINE MATTERS, FOMENKO BEGAN RELATING A SERIES
OF INCIDENTS ALLEGEDLY INVOLVING QUESTIONABLE ACTIVITIES
ON THE PART OF CORPORAL JON HILDRETH. (IT WAS IMMEDIATELY
APPARENT THAT HIS INTENTION WAS TO ESTABLISH THE APPRO-
PRIATE CONTEXT IN WHICH TO RELATE THE INTOURIST HOTEL
INCIDENT; I.E., HILDRETH IS AN HABITUAL TROUBLEMAKER.)
FOMENKO BEGAN WITH AN INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED IN MID-

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

85 6725800

SCO

PAGE 002

NC 6725800

TOR: 141602Z MAR 85

DECEMBER 1984 IN WHICH HILDRETH ALLEGEDLY ENTERED A MOSCOW HOTEL ATTIRED "IN HIS UNDERWEAR," AN ACT THE SOVIETS CONSIDERED INAPPROPRIATE. A SECOND INCIDENT MENTIONED INVOLVED MILITIA RESPONDING TO A NOISE COMPLAINT AT THE HOTEL ROOM OF TWO AMERICAN FEMALE STUDENTS. HILDRETH WAS IN THE ROOM WITH THE TWO STUDENTS AT THE TIME. A THIRD INCIDENT INVOLVED HILDRETH ARRIVING AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN AN INEBRIATED STATE AND FAILING TO PAY THE TAXI DRIVER FOR THE RIDE. FINALLY, FOMENKO BROUGHT UP THE INCIDENT AT THE INTOURIST HOTEL (HE MIS-IDENTIFIED THE HOTEL AS THE COSMOS HOTEL) WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS A SERIOUS AFFAIR AS IT INVOLVED A PHYSICAL ASSAULT ON AN ELDERLY MAN EMPLOYED AT THE HOTEL. ACCORDING TO THE MILITIA REPORT, HILDRETH ENTERED THE RESTROOM NEAR THE LOBBY OF THE HOTEL IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF MARCH 6, 1985, TURNED OFF THE LIGHTS, AND WHEN APPROACHED BY THE 64-YEAR-OLD MALE TOILET ATTENDANT, ASSAULTED THE ELDERLY MAN BY PUNCHING AND KICKING HIM. ONLY AFTER A SECOND SOVIET EMPLOYEE ARRIVED ON THE SCENE WAS HILDRETH OVERPOWERED, TAKEN INTO CUSTODY, AND BROUGHT TO THE MILITIA OFFICE LOCATED NEAR THE MAIN LOBBY. THERE, ACCORDING TO FOMENKO, HILDRETH ASSAULTED TWO UNIFORMED MILITIA OFFICERS WHO ATTEMPTED TO QUESTION HIM. HE SUBSEQUENTLY BROKE FREE OF THE MILITIA AND FLED THE HOTEL WHEN A CANADIAN CITIZEN, NOT IDENTIFIED BY THE MILITIA (BUT KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN ROBERT SHALKA) INTERVENED ON HILDRETH'S BEHALF. WHEN SPECIFICALLY ASKED BY THE REPORTING OFFICER WHY THE MILITIA OFFICERS DID NOT PURSUE HILDRETH WHEN HE RAN FROM THE ROOM, FOMENKO EXPLAINED THAT THE MILITIA OFFICER IN CHARGE AT THE HOTEL WAS YOUNG AND INEXPERIENCED AND HESITATED TO PURSUE HILDRETH ONCE THE "CANADIAN" IDENTIFIED HIM AS AN "AMERICAN DIPLOMAT". FOMENKO CONCLUDED HIS REPORT BY STRONGLY REQUESTING THAT THE EMBASSY TAKE MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT SIMILAR ACTIVITIES DID NOT OCCUR IN THE FUTURE. HE DID NOT INDICATE THAT HILDRETH WOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF PNG ACTION. (FYI: CORPORAL JON HILDRETH DEPARTED MOSCOW ON ROUTINE RE-ASSIGNMENT TO CANBERRA ON MARCH 8, 1985.)

3. ON THE MORNING OF MARCH 8, 1985, CORPORAL JON HILDRETH WAS AGAIN INTERVIEWED BY THE RSO, THIS TIME WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE SOVIET CHARGE THAT HE ASSAULTED A HOTEL EMPLOYEE IN THE RESTROOM OF THE INTOURIST HOTEL. HILDRETH AGAIN AFFIRMED THE ACCURACY OF HIS ORIGINAL STATEMENT AND DENIED THAT HE ASSAULTED ANYONE AT THE HOTEL ON THE NIGHT IN QUESTION. HE WAS THEN OFFERED FULL IMMUNITY FROM DISCIPLINARY ACTION AND GIVEN A FINAL OPPORTUNITY TO CHANGE HIS STORY. HE DID NOT.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 03170

DEPT. FOR A/SY/OPS/FO/MSG AND EUR/SCV
FRANKFURT FOR ADS
LENINGRAD FOR PO AND RSO

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: ASEC, UR, US
SUBJECT: ASSAULT ON MARINE CORPORAL JON HILDRETH -- THE

4. BASED UPON CORPORAL HILDRETH'S FIRM DENIAL OF IMPROPER CONDUCT, OUR KNOWLEDGE OF HIS CHARACTER AND PAST PERFORMANCE, AND THE COMMENTS OF EYEWITNESS ROBERT SHALKA, WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO BELIEVE THAT HILDRETH WAS THE SUBJECT OF A PREMEDITATED ASSAULT. CONSEQUENTLY, WE VIEW THE SOVIET COUNTER-CHARGE AS SPURIOUS.

5. WE PLAN NO FURTHER ACTION AT THIS TIME AND WILL AWAIT A SOVIET RESPONSE TO OUR NOTE. HARTMAN
END OF MESSAGE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL